Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~monitoring the status~~ determining the likelihood of progression of a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in an individual to multiple myeloma, said method comprising:

(a) providing a first bone marrow preparation supernatant from said individual diagnosed with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder and a second bone marrow preparation supernatant from a normal individual; and

(b) quantitating the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said first bone marrow preparation supernatant and the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said second bone marrow ~~preparations~~ preparation supernatant, wherein progression to multiple myeloma is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said first bone marrow preparation supernatant is greater than said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said second bone marrow preparation supernatant, and wherein progression to multiple myeloma is not indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said first bone marrow preparation supernatant is less than or similar to said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said second bone marrow preparation supernatant.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in said individual is smoldering multiple myeloma.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said first bone marrow preparation supernatant is a fresh supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual diagnosed with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder.

9-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~monitoring~~ determining the status of multiple myeloma in an individual, said method comprising:

a) obtaining an earlier bone marrow preparation supernatant and a later bone marrow preparation supernatant from said individual, said individual undergoing treatment for multiple myeloma, at least one of said bone marrow ~~preparations~~ preparation supernatants prepared from bone marrow obtained after initiation of said treatment; and

b) determining the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said earlier bone marrow preparation supernatant and determining the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation supernatant, wherein progression of said multiple myeloma status is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation supernatant is greater than said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said earlier bone marrow preparation supernatant, wherein improvement of said multiple myeloma status is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation supernatant is less than said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said earlier bone marrow preparation supernatant, and wherein stability of said multiple myeloma status is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation supernatant is similar to said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said earlier bone marrow preparation supernatant.

16-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in said individual is indolent multiple myeloma.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in said individual is monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~monitoring the status~~ determining the likelihood of progression of a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in an individual to multiple myeloma, said method comprising:

(a) providing a bone marrow preparation supernatant from said individual diagnosed with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder; and

(b) quantitating the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said bone marrow preparation supernatant, wherein progression to multiple myeloma is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by said stromal cells is greater than the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured in the presence of 1 pg/ml IL-1β, and wherein progression to multiple myeloma is not indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by said stromal cells is less than or the same as the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured in the presence of 1pg/ml IL-1β.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in said individual is smoldering multiple myeloma.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in said individual is indolent multiple myeloma.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in said individual is monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said first bone marrow preparation supernatant is a previously frozen supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual diagnosed with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said later bone marrow preparation supernatant is a fresh supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said later bone marrow preparation supernatant is a previously frozen supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein said bone marrow preparation supernatant is a fresh supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein said bone marrow preparation supernatant is a previously frozen supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual.

41. (New) A method of determining the likelihood of progression of a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in an individual to multiple myeloma, said method comprising:

a) obtaining an earlier bone marrow preparation supernatant and a later bone marrow preparation supernatant from said individual; and

b) determining the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said earlier bone marrow preparation supernatant and determining the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation supernatant, wherein progression to multiple myeloma is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation supernatant is greater than said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said earlier bone marrow preparation supernatant, and wherein progression to multiple myeloma is not indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation supernatant is less than or similar to said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said earlier bone marrow preparation supernatant.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder is smoldering multiple myeloma, indolent multiple myeloma, or monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said earlier bone marrow preparation supernatant is a fresh supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual, or a previously frozen supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said later bone marrow preparation supernatant is a fresh supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual, or a previously frozen supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual.